

Message Text

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AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L CURACAO 0196

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNDP, EAID, NA

SUBJECT: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 72386

1. THE U.N. PROGRAM IN THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES FORMS A MINOR PART OF DEVELOPMENT FUNDING FOR THE AREA. MAJOR INPUTS COME FROM DIRECT DUTCH AID PAYMENTS AND EUROPEAN ECONOMICAL COMMUNITY FUNDS. THERE ARE TWO CONTINUING UN PROGRAMS IN THE NETH. ANT., THE IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES TO CIVIL AVIATION AND THE ILO HANDICRAFT PROJECT, SUPPOSEDLY TO CREATE EMPLOYMENT. THE LATTER IS MORIBUND. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE OCCASIONAL TECHNICIANS BROUGHT FOR SHORT TERM PROJECTS AS ADVISORS TO EITHER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OR THE ISLAND GOVERNMENTS. SO FAR, NONE OF THESE HAS HAD A MEASURABLE IMPACT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE N.A.

2. THE AVIATION PROJECT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE UNDP.
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IT IS RELATIVELY SUCCESSFUL, NOW BEING IN THE 4TH YEAR OF A

PROJECTED 6-YEAR PERIOD. UNDP CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN \$1.3-Q MILLION WITH THE GNA CONTRIBUTING APPROXIMATELY \$5-MILLION IN KIND TOWARD LOCAL COSTS. THIS PROJECT HAS CONCENTRATED ON THE TRAINING OF RADAR TECHNICIANS, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS, AND OTHER AVIATION PERSONNEL, AND HAS ALSO PROVIDED CONSULTANTS FOR SECURITY, FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, AIRLINE MANAGEMENT AND, PRESENTLY, HAS TWO TECHNICIANS SERVING AS AIRPORT MANAGERS. THE TRAINING SCHOOL FOR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS HAS BEEN TURNED OVER COMPLETELY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE N.A.

3. THE ILO HANDICRAFT PROJECT HAS BEEN PLAGUED FROM THE START BY POOR MANAGEMENT AND HAS LITTLE TO SHOW FOR THE MONEY INVESTED. EXPERTS HAVE ARRIVED WITHOUT EQUIPMENT AND EQUIPMENT HAS COME AT THE END OF EXPERTS' TOURS, NECESSITATING NEW AND DUPLICATIVE CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS. AT THE PRESENT TIME, DUE TO THE FISCAL PROBLEMS MENTIONED BELOW, THE PROJECT HAS A MANAGER BUT ALMOST NO TECHNICIANS TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT. EVEN AT BEST, IT CAN BE QUESTIONED WHETHER THE PROJECT WOULD HAVE ANY MEASURABLE SUCCESS; THE CAPITAL INVESTMENT COULD ARGUABLY BETTER HAVE BEEN USED FOR CREATING PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO CREATE HANDICRAFT ENTREPRENEURS OUT OF WHOLE CLOTH.

4. EARLY IN 1976, THE RECENTLY APPOINTED RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE --WHO IS STATIONED AT PORT OF SPAIN--MISS JACQUELINE GRANGER, ARRIVED IN THE N.A. WITH INFORMATION THAT THE SCARCITY OF FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE UNDP WOULD NECESSITATE A CUTBACK OF ABOUT 15 PERCENT IN FUNDS FOR UNDP PROJECTS IN THE NA. APPROXIMATELY 3 WEEKS LATER, SHE ANNOUNCED BY LETTER A FURTHER 15 PERCENT CUT. THE CUT WAS TO BE MADE EFFECTIVE BY ELIMINATING ALL UNDP PERSONNEL EXCEPT THOSE WHO HAD VALID CONTRACTS EXTENDING BEYOND 1976; THOSE WHOSE CONTRACTS WERE ABOUT TO LAPSE WERE TO BE REPATRIATED AND NOT GIVEN TERMINAL PAY, BUT MADE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY EARLIER AND USE THE REMAINING TIME ON THEIR CONTRACTS TO USE UP THEIR ALLOWABLE LEAVE. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT BROUGHT CONSTERNATION TO THE TECHNICIANS INVOLVED AND TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, ICAO ARRANGED TO LEND \$65,000 TO THE UNDP TO ALLOW THE ICAO PROJECT TO CONTINUE ALTHOUGH AT LEAST ONE TECHNICIAN HAD DEPARTED AND ANOTHER HAS NOT YET BEEN INFORMED AS TO WHETHER HIS CONTRACT WILL BE RENEWED.

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5. MISS GRANGER HAS NOT RETURNED TO THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES SINCE HER INITIAL VISIT AND, GIVEN THE HOSTILITY WITH WHICH SHE IS VIEWED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SHE WILL DO SO FOR THE REMAINDER OF HER ASSIGNMENT. LOCAL OPINION - INCLUDING THAT OF THE TECHNICIANS - IS THAT THE MATTER WAS HANDLED VERY BADLY AND THAT TOTAL COSTS TO THE UNDP WOULD BE INCREASED BY THIS ACTION SINCE IT INVOLVES DUPLICATING PAY-

MENTS FOR LEAVE, SEVERANCE PAY, TRAVEL, AND TRANSPORTATION
OF EFFECTS.

6. COMMENT: THE CONSULATE GENERAL CONTINUES TO SUPPORT PROJECTS
SUCH AS THE ICAO PROJECT IN THE NA AS BEING EFFECTIVELY HANDLED
AND CONCEIVED AND OF VALUE TO THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY. PROJECTS
SUCH AS THE ILO PROJECT APPEAR TO BE A WASTE OF TIME AND EFFORT.
MISS GRANGER, POSSIBLY THROUGH NO FAULT OF HER OWN, HAS LOST
ANY EFFECTIVENESS SHE MAY HAVE HAD IN THE NA.
HANSON

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